


**BOROUGH of
GODMANCHESTER**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
UPON THE
SANITARY CONDITIONS of the
DISTRICT
DURING YEAR 1955



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TO THE GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough.

The year under review does not show any major changes in the general health of the population. There were three fewer births this year than last, but the Birth Rate still remains well above the average for England and Wales.

The total loss of infant life from still birth and infant death under one year during 1955 amounted to two, consequently any analyses of these figures would be very misleading. There were five fewer deaths this year than last and the death rate is now below the figure for the country as a whole. Malignant disease accounted for the greatest proportion of deaths, followed by deaths from cardiac disorders.

Chicken Pox headed the list of notifiable infections for the year and it appears that a minor epidemic of this disease occurred towards the end of the year. After an application to the Ministry had been made permission was received to remove Chicken Pox from this list of notifiable infectious diseases. Following a year in which both Whooping Cough and Measles were abnormally low the incidence of these diseases returned to a more usual level.

For still another year Diphtheria has been conspicuous by its absence, the last notified case having occurred in 1940. This happy state of affairs should not lead to complacency on the part of parents and every effort should still be made to achieve the highest possible level of immunity. The number of primary immunisations against Diphtheria showed a decrease of 39 over the previous year. This resulted from the cessation of immunisation when poliomyelitis became prevalent in other parts of the county.

The year saw the commencement of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for the Borough and by the end of the year one-third of the main sewers had been laid. Many properties are still using private wells but those in close proximity to the sewerage scheme found that these wells were drained by the excavations and consequently these properties have now been connected to the main supply.

20 Unity Houses were completed during the year and building of a further 14 houses and 6 Bungalows was commenced.

In conclusion I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness and consideration during the past year, and all officers for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CALDWELL.

Staff*Medical Officer of Health :*

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

C. W. PARCELL, A.R.SAN.I.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	...	...	...	...	...	4,956 acres
Estimated population (Mid 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	2,420
			(Mid 1955)	...	...	2,420
Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1955 per						
Rate Book	...	...	...	...	...	772
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£11,473
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£44 13s. 2d.

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total			
Legitimate	19	20	39	Birth rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	1	2	3	estimated population	17.3	
				(Ditto for England		
Total	20	22	42	and Wales) ...	...	15.0
STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total			
Legitimate	1	1	2	Rate per 1,000 total		
Illegitimate	—	—	—	(Live and Still) Births	45.4	
				(Ditto for England		
Total	1	1	2	and Wales) ...	...	23.1
DEATHS (all ages)	M.	F.	Total			
	12	15	27	Death rate per 1,000		
				estimated population	11.2	
				(Ditto for England		
				and Wales) ...	...	11.7
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	M.	F.	Total			
Legitimate	...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR						
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	23.8
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	...	...	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	25.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	...

Causes of Death

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	2
15.	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	—
18.	Coronary disease, angina	1	2
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	—	3
21.	Other circulatory disease	—	2
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	—	—
24.	Bronchitis	1	—
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34.	All other accidents	1	—
35.	Suicide	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of	—	—
Total all causes ...		12	15

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area :—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.)
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES.

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.

(Tel. Huntingdon 348).

(c) HOME NURSING.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

(d) CLINICS—*See over*

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Fever. As from May, 1955, facilities for investigation and treatment of Infectious Diseases are provided by the Isolation Hospitals at Ely, Cambridge and Peterborough.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases. Following the closing of Paxton Park Maternity Hospital, St. Neots, in September, cases are now admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon.

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

					Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	25
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	35
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	—
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	—
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	81
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	1
					154

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdonshire County Council.

Clinics.	Patients Seen.	When Held	Where Held
MINOR AILMENTS.	Schoolchildren.	Every Mon. 9-30 to 10-30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
INFANT WELFARE	Children (0-5 years)	Every Tues. 2-4 p.m.	do.
DENTAL	Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers	Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon (by appointment)	10. Princes Street, Huntingdon
(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdonshire County Council:			
OPHTHALMIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	1st & 3rd Fridays in the mth. (By appointment except in emergency) 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon 2 to 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School Huntingdon
ORTHOPAEDIC	Pre-School and Schoolchildren	2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month (<i>By appointment</i>) 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	do.

(iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

CHEST

All ages	Every Thursday 10 a.m. to 12 noon	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
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VENEREAL DISEASES All cases.

	Mondays 3 to 7 p.m.	{	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge
	Wed. 4 to 6.30 p.m.		

MALES :	Mondays 5.30 to 7 p.m.	{	Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Wednesdays 5.30 to 7 p.m.		
FEMALES :	Tuesdays 10.30 to 12 noon	{	
	Thursdays 5.30 to 7 p.m.		

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Pædiatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary Immunisation	12	9	—	—	—	1	—	22
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	1	6	—	7

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District
of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1-4 1954-1951	5-9 1950-1946	10-14 1945-1941	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1951—1955	—	144	147	134	425
B. 1950 or earlier	—	—	90	102	192

Tuberculosis

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1955 ... 14

Pulmonary ... 13 Non-Pulmonary ... 1

Age Periods.	New Cases — Diagnosed				New Cases — Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...								
1 ...								
5 ...								
10 ...								
15 ...					1			
20 ...								
25 ...								
35 ...								
45 ...								
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
Total	1	...	...	...

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT — 1955

Housing

New Housing. The remaining 16 Unity Houses of the first scheme were completed and work commenced on a second scheme for 14 houses and 6 bungalows. Two requisitioned properties were released and nine families from Island Hall were re-housed in Council Houses.

One new house was completed during the year by private enterprise.

Two applications for advances under the Housing Act for house purchase were approved and advances made.

Improvements. Three Council Houses and three other houses owned by the Council were modernised by the provision of hot water supplies, W.C.'s and new baths. A contract was given for a further four houses to be modernised.

Nine applications for Improvement Grants were received of which eight were approved and in one case work has been completed and grant paid.

Slum Clearance. A notice under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, was served and an undertaking from the owner not to use the house for human habitation until it was made fit was accepted in lieu of making a demolition order.

An area in Piper's Lane and Earning Street has been selected for action as a Clearance Area.

Water Supply

The mains supply, bulk purchased from Huntingdon Borough, remains satisfactory. The quality is supervised by the producer but routine samples taken within the Borough proved satisfactory. A number of existing properties have been connected to the supply during the year and most of the properties now on well supplies are in the area for which the Council have agreed to provide a mains supply.

	Mains supply direct	Mains supply standpipe	Well water
Estimated number of dwellings supplied	550	139	30
Estimated population supplied	1,925	395	100

The daily average water consumption is 63,300 gallons or 27 gallons per head per day.

Sewers and Sewage Disposal

The existing system continues to flow by means of continual clearing and flushing of the open dykes and brick barrel sewers. Two new connections were made and a further eight earth closets converted to W.Cs. A rising main sewer from the Unity Housing site ejector was also connected into the existing system.

Bi-weekly collections of night soil from 314 premises continues to be disposed of by crude tipping.

Work has commenced on the new sewerage scheme and on the Joint Sewage Disposal Works Scheme. In connection with this a number of drain tests have been carried out with a view to ensuring that all drains connected to the new system are in a satisfactory condition.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of household refuse is made weekly and disposed of on a tip near London Road. Controlled tipping has not been adopted and the tip is often on fire. A previously filled tip in Cambridge Road has been covered with spoil from the Sewerage scheme. Difficulty in maintaining the regular service was experienced for a time due to staff changes.

Street Cleaning

Approximately 3.5 miles of County and 2 miles of Borough roads are swept by two employees, both of whom were supplied with new street orderlies during the year. It is not possible with the labour available to sweep paths as well as roads.

Street gullies were cleaned as necessary by use of the Tumbler Cart and scoops.

River

The bathing place remained closed. It was a dry year with very little high water so the sluice gates controlled any tendency to flood, except for one or two occasions early in the year.

Caravan Sites

The site licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936, has continued to grow and shortly further measures will be necessary to ensure that there is no danger to public health. A number of individual licenses have been issued to occupiers of caravans and other caravans have been used within the Borough under the exemption clauses of Section 269 of the Public Health Act.

Food and Drugs Act

This Authority's duties under Sections 9—18, 21 (c) 31, 37—39 were transferred to H.C.C. on the 17th January, 1940, and are still administered by them.

One premises in the Borough continues to be used as a slaughter-house and one slaughterman's licence is in operation.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Public Health Act, 1936

(a) Number of inspections made during the year
(including re-inspections) ... 909

(b) Number of notices served during the year—
 1. Informal ... 24
 2. Statutory ... 2

Result of such notices :—

1. Informal notices complied with ... 24
 2. Statutory notices complied with ... 2

Housing Act, 1936

(a) Number of inspections made during the year ... 188

(b) Number of notices served during the year—
 1. Informal ... Nil
 2. Statutory ... 1

Result of such notices :—

1. Informal notices complied with ... Nil
 2. Statutory notices complied with ... 1

Water Act, 1945

(a) Number of inspections made during the year ... 200

(b) Number of notices served during the year—
 1. Informal ... 13
 2. Statutory ... 8

Result of such notices :—

1. Informal notices complied with ... 13
 2. Statutory notices complied with ... 8

Housing Act, 1949

Number of Inspections made in connection with
 improvement of properties ... 64
 Number of applications received for Improvement Grants 9
 Number of applications approved ... 8
 Number of applications not approved ... 1
 Number of properties improved (work completed) ... 1

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Number of inspections made during year	8
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Factories Act, 1937

1.—Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority :—

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections	...	...	...	...	5
Notices	...	...	...	...	Nil
Complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil

2.—Factories not included in 1 in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority :—

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections	...	...	...	...	5
Notices	...	...	...	...	Nil
Complied with	...	...	...	...	Nil

3. Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c). ... 3

Number of cases of default in sending in list	...	Nil
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Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Nil
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act

No. of properties inspected as a result of notification	...	23
No. of properties inspected survey under Act	...	137
No. of properties inspected primarily for other purposes	...	662
No. of properties inspected infested with rats	...	30
No. of properties inspected infested with mice	...	3
No. of properties treated by Local Authority	...	27

